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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/712,038

11/14/2003

Takeo Suda

245229US2

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22850

7590

03/15/2005

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

GRAINGER, QUANA MASHELL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2852

DATE MAILED: 03/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/712,038

Applicant(s)

SUDA, TAKEO

Examiner

Quana M. Grainger

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 18, 23 and 25-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-17, 19-22 and 24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 November 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figure 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 25 is objected to it lacks antecedent basis for "said convex shaped protrusion". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 23, and 26-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ogiri et al. (5,517,294).

Ogiri et al. teaches a cleaning member for cleaning an image carrier, comprising a support plate 48 comprising a planar face portion configured to be fixed to an object

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30 in a position adjacent to said image carrier 10, a plurality of reinforcement features (36, 38, 96a, 100a, 96b, 100b) configured to reinforce a strength of said support plate, reinforcement features arranged on said planar face portion, and a blade connecting portion arranged on said planar face portion; and an elastic blade member 68 connected to said blade connecting portion of said support plate such that said elastic blade extends toward said image carrier when said support plate is fixed to said object (Figure 1). The object is an interior surface of an image forming apparatus (Figure 2). The cleaning member further comprising a plurality of fixing holes extending through said support plate and configured to receive a screw 58 that fixes the support plate to said object 30.

Ogiri et al. teaches a cleaning member 68 for cleaning an image carrier 10, comprising a support plate comprising means for fixing the support plate to an object in a position adjacent to said image carrier 10, and means for reinforcing reinforce a strength of said support plate, at least one of said reinforcement features arranged on said planar face portion; an elastic blade member 68 configured to clean said image carrier when said support plate is fixed to said object; and means for connecting said elastic blade to said support plate. The image forming apparatus comprising an image carrier 10; an interior wall; and a cleaning member 68 mounted to said interior wall and configured to clean said image carrier, said cleaning member comprising a support plate comprising a planar face portion configured to be fixed to said interior wall in a position adjacent to said image carrier, a plurality of reinforcement features configured to reinforce a strength of said support plate, at least one of said reinforcement features

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arranged on said planar face portion, and a blade connecting portion arranged on said planar face portion; and an elastic blade member connected to said blade connecting portion of said support plate such that said elastic blade extends toward said image carrier when said support plate is fixed to said interior wall.

Ogiri et al. also teaches an image processing cartridge, comprising an image carrier 10; an interior wall; and a cleaning member mounted to said interior wall and configured to clean said image carrier 10, said cleaning member 68 comprising a support plate comprising a planar face portion configured to be fixed to said interior wall in a position adjacent to said image carrier, a plurality of reinforcement features configured to reinforce a strength of said support plate, at least one of said reinforcement features arranged on said planar face portion, and a blade connecting portion arranged on said planar face portion; and an elastic blade member 68 connected to said blade 68 connecting portion of said support plate such that said elastic blade extends toward said image carrier 10 when said support plate is fixed to said interior wall. The blade connecting portion is arranged on the planar face portion and extends at an angle (Figures 1-2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3 and 25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogiri et al. in view of Kubota (JP11-249514A). Ogiri et al. does not discuss a process cartridge. Kubota teaches a cleaning blade in a process cartridge. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teaching of Kubota to obtain the ease of maintenance that a process cartridge provides.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 6-22 and 24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 2-16-2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Ogiri et al. does not include reinforcement features on a planar face of the surface plate. However, Ogiri et al. teaches reinforcing members 100 as well as blocks 36, 38. These reinforcing members prevent resilient deformation of the blade holding member (column 8, line 29- column 9, line 14).

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 3 and 25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The claims remain rejected as discussed above.

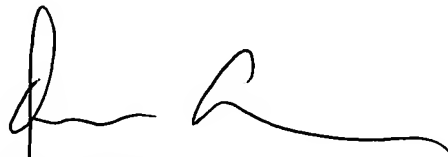
Contact Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quana M. Grainger whose telephone number is 571-272-2135. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am-6pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on 571-272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Quana M Grainger
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

QG